

Name: Jennifer Matheny

Organization: NA

Title of Hearing: **Hearing on Responding to Long-Term Unemployment**

Dear Committee,

I have been unemployed since August of 2009. During this time period I have applied for over 2000 jobs. Of those 2000 thousand jobs I have only been offered two interviews. One of those two interviews I was rejected on my credit score only. The other interview which was for a city job I was amongst a room full (over 50 candidates) for one job. All of those 50 were unemployed just like me except 4 people. Prior to 2008 I would get calls weekly from recruiters and business partners trying to get me to come and work for them. Now I can't even get an interview.

Since I have lost my job my family has both lost our home, savings, retirements, and vehicles. I have been working since I was 15 years old and now am 35 years old. I have two children and have been married for 10 years. I am college educated and have worked in my industry much of my adult life. I have never in my entire life received any government support in any way (with regards to finance). During my unemployment and job search I have been volunteering at both the schools and youth organizations. Since I am on unemployment I feel that my volunteer time to the community is a small offset to any unemployment that I get (which is less than 60% of my work pay).

Every single dollar I get pays rent, food and gas for my family. Once my unemployment is gone we won't even be able to afford even the necessities of life. Additionally, this money will not be put back into the economy along with the 6.7 million long-term jobless Americans. Therefore, if 6.7 million American's are not putting the money back into the economy a loss in the estimated range of (6.7million x \$200 wk=\$1,340,000,000)(weekly). I know that I am not an economist but common sense tells me that without this flow thru of cash into the economy a consequence of great detriment will occur in the market. The economy can't withstand this loss at this time. I promise that more people will be laid off, more people will lose their homes, file bankruptcy and huge market losses will occur systematically within a month, even greater than the current losses occurring daily. Doesn't anyone see the correlation with the huge drop in the market the first week of June, to the loss of unemployment benefits for so many American's during that same week.

I am asking as a good hard working citizen of this Great Country for help thru this difficult time. Furthermore, my children and my husband are asking for help during this difficult time. We have never asked before and we are begging just once for a lending hand from the leaders of this still Great Country of United States of America.

Thank you for your time, consideration and service to our Country.

Jennifer Matheny